5/6/89

Dear Dick,

If you intended to be helpful to me in suggesting that Mason get in touch, thanks.

I did do enough skimming to get a feel for the book, made notes I've thrown away, and had planned to write him further as soon as I could. I've no personal interest in that kind of crap. I did take the time to give him in writing what he did not want to take time to listen to when he phoned, he said from a Washington phone booth, yesterday. The book may be ignored or some LBJ people will, as they should, take offense over the fabrication I tell him about. Far from the only invention presented as fact/ in what I saw so I'm sure many in the book.

Most of these writing book on the subject do not bother to learn what there is in the records now available. They cook up theories, fall in love with them and themselves and their brilliance, take anything anybody says as fact or evidence and not infrequently improvise on the improvizations of others. Instant fact, naturally. The more such nonsense is repeated, the more credibility it gets among those conspiracy theorists, and the more it gets improved upon until someone like Mason's author sees a pot of gold and a publisher has a crock of shit.

I doubt Mason will get hurt with libel suits but as you may recall, spurious suits are not impossible. But some of these days some former federal agent or official is going to loose his cool and see his own pot of gold. People like Mason's author use some names rather loosely and do take liberties with fact.

Unfortunately, no publisher is in a position to determine what is and is not so in such books. I think it is irresponsible to publish one without learning whether he is engaging in further disinformation. Mason had his cover done before he seems to have thought of it. And he has a book that cannot be made accurate and faithful to fact. So I'm glad he did not seek me out when he first got it and ask me to comment on all of it.

I did spend what for me and now is some time I needed for what is important to me and I've sent him no bill. Now I have to catch up on those other things.

Thanks and best to you all,

Harold